CV Community Vision
of the pikes peak gay lesbian community center
VOLUME XXVNUMBER 5

In Memoriam

Thomas "Tommy" Gehling
1944 - 2003

The community mourns the loss of a pioneer page 5

Community Vision
of the pikes peak gay & lesbian community center
GLBT Voices of Colorado Springs

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Letters to the Editor letters@ppglcc.org

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Hard copies of all items should be submitted by mailing the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Center at the above post office box.

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Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center

The mission of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center (PPGLCC), a 501c3 organization, is to create a sense of community, and to promote acceptance and understanding among lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender people and the community-at-large.

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letter from the president

Greetings! You are about to read the *premier* GLBT newspaper of Colorado Springs!

Community Vision has been the printed newsletter of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center for many years. This has been our tool for letting our membership know the status of the organization, learn about upcoming events, and has been a solicitation device for fundraising and community input. In compliance with our mission of creating a sense of community for the LGBT folks of the Pikes Peak Region, organizers for the newsletter have always strived to keep it broad based and inclusive of community input not directly related to the PPGLCC and even events from other organizations.

On a cold night in December of 2002, Wayne, Michelle, Thom and myself met to discuss the future of Community Vision since it had been nearly a year since it's last publication. With Michelle as the coordinator, Thom as the layout guy and Wayne and myself trying to pull the strings, we decided on a few goals for the Community Vision. We'd start going every other month, with the intention of going monthly in 2004. We'd get community letters for our articles and we'd draw pictures to fill the pages. We'd get some advertising, and it would all be really simple, or not. Together, we had a vision that our little newsletter would grow into a full-fledged newspaper, and turn into something that was not only desired by our membership, but all the LGBT folks here and away. We'd didn't know exactly how we were going to pull this off, but we sure as hell were going to try. Fully supported by the PPGLCC board, it was still a big dream for four people.

But just a few months later, we are printing a real newspaper that you see today. Complete with a first time exclusive interview, new logo, hot new layout and an ever-growing team of volunteers, the Community Vision is beginning to reach it's full potential.

I'm pleased to announce that Arva Adams will be stepping up in charge of a new layout team and editing. Dorian, our long time distributor will get a brand new title as Distribution Manager, striving to increase our distribution to more than 10,000 by 2005. And I'm excited to see that we have new official reporters, photographers and many others involved. This committee has certainly grown in the last several months, and it's capacity to move Community Vision, the PPGLCC and the LGBT community in bigger and better directions has never been better.

And don't get me wrong. The Community Vision will always remain the newsletter of the PPGLCC for our membership and our community. This team is dedicated to keeping it's roots "for the community, by the community", as it heads into the future. Your thoughts and input are always wanted. As for Michelle, Thom, Wayne and myself, now we just get to kick back and boss people around...Enjoy!

Truly,

Ryan Acker

Relentless. Pursuing all that's persuasible. Doing, god willing, all things that are doable.
[OutKast]

help

Community Vision desperately needs 4-8 volunteer delivery people who can spare 2-4 hours during the first week of every month! It's a small commitment with a huge impact on our community and our city! Please contact Dori at info@ppglcc.org or 719-667-0047.

logo

Community Vision is changing its look! Along with the new design, we're creating a new logo for the Community Vision. You may see our logo change a couple of times before we decide on our favorite. If you have any suggestions for the new logo or our new look, please contact Arva at arva@ppglcc.org.

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cover by Delaney Utterback

an exlusive one-on-one with mike schrader

by ginnyoman::MA::LPC
contributing reporter

Remember when it was announced that the city had decided to afford same sex partner benefits for its employees? Remember what amazement, excitement and promise felt that this city had FINALLY come to its senses and decided to walk their talk of equal rights for all? I do. It was like witnessing this town affirming what has been the right thing to do all along. But then, we barely had a chance to experience this wonderment when a few months later, this city elected a new mayor, who, with a majority vote of city council, decided to reverse this decision. It wasn't just the fact that the reversed decision had been made, a decision to go backwards and once again deny equal rights for LGBT city workers and their partners, but how it was done.

It was the FIRST act that the new mayor chose to complete in his initial position of "leadership". And it was done with the approval of a new city council with the exception, of course, of our ONE councilperson Richard Skorman, who has been brave enough to swim against the current and continuously fight on our behalf.

I heard a brief news announcement about the CEO of Memorial Hospital resigning in protest due to this decision of city council and the new mayor. I stopped to realize what had happened. The person in the top position of the largest hospital in Colorado Springs and El Paso County - RESIGNING IN PROTEST OF THE MAYOR'S DECISION TO DENY SAME SEX PARTNER BENEFITS?? How absolutely incredible! I wanted to know about this amazing human being who would be so courageous to give up his prestigious, high profile job for the rights of LGBT folk.

So, I called Memorial Hospital and left a voice message expressing my heart felt thanks on behalf of LGBT people for making such a selfless and courageous act to give up his position in order to take a stand for LGBT rights.

The very next day, I get a call on my cell phone and a guy saying "Hello Ginny, this is Mike Schrader and I thank you so very much for your message to me." He went on to tell me that hearing my message couldn't have come at a better time in his life and that it "made his day" in the midst of all the craziness around him. Afterward, I started to wonder what WE as LGBT people are doing to communicate our thanks to him. Does everyone in our community know how incredible this is? Do people even know who the heck Mike Schrader is?

> "...it gets even more complex when we look at equal rights discussions of the word 'diversity' and who's chosen to be included in that word and who's not."

Schrader was raised in a small Michigan town where "there was almost no visible diversity". His father ran the local country store and taught his son that regardless of how anyone looks, or their financial status, people are to be treated equally because there's no way you can tell a person's moral or ethical values from the outside.

Schrader served as a First Aid core man in the US Navy and did a tour in Viet Nam. He spent substantial time in medical environments and eventually in hospital settings. His focus was on people, and serving people in need. He ended up going back to school and getting a degree in hospital administration.

He and his wife have only been in Colorado Springs for three years, so he did not have prior experience of Amendment 2 or the history of this city with regard to discrimination and inequality. This event was enough for him.

Schrader, who has been the Executive Director of Memorial Hospital since November 2000, resigned on July 31, 2003, leaving his $300,000+ yearly salary behind on the basis of principal, with no immediate career opportunity waiting for him. He is an amazingly incredible man of courage and character. And so our conversation went:

Ginny: I was talking about your courageous action with colleagues of mine, and their first question to me was, "So who is this man? Is he gay?" and I said "I don't know anything about him and no, I don't think he's gay" which is another reason why your action seemed so remarkable. So for the record, if you don't mind, I need you to clarify.

Mike: I'm not gay. I hope that people would understand that I believe strongly in equal rights. And equal right are equal rights. And it gets even more complex when we look at equal rights discussions of the word 'diversity' and who's chosen to be included in that word and who's not. There seems to be a controversy of who's in that term and who's not. And I just don't understand that argument. And at some point you've got to stop it and for me, that point was here, with the Mayor's decision.

Ginny: How long was this decision in coming for you? When was the genesis of this decision?

Mike: I have to honestly say that as my organization began to deal with the issue of domestic partner benefits, I had a sense of trouble at that point because people began saying "oh equal benefits will never happen here" and I would say to them if it can't happen here, then maybe this is not the place that I want to work. And I don't know if I really believed that at the time, but I just had a sense that there was an equity issue here that needed to be addressed and that reasonable people would address a reasonable equity issue. And so we worked on a benefit in the hospital for a year and took it to the city government. Lorne Kramer has similar beliefs in terms of what he wanted and he ended up taking it forward under his budget. So when it PASSED after dialogue, debate and discussion, it felt really good that this year long process came to some thoughtful conclusion.

> "It left me feeling that this decision was wired before [Council] ever walked into the room. There was no doubt in my mind."

Then the action that the city council took at their first meeting in April, without honoring what had taken place before, which was the point at which it all went away for me. Any number of good things could have happened at that time that might have allowed the community, both of straights and gays to say "okay, the city council is willing to at least look at this issue again so lets be patient and join in the dialogue" But NONE of that happened. What emerged was the council's implied message to us of NO. We're not going to look at this issue again, and what part of No don't you understand? They were closed to discussion. They were not honoring the process debate, discovery and potential that new information could indeed bring about a different outcome. At that meeting there were so many people who requested time to keep discussion open with council. The Gay and Lesbian Fund and some other organizations offered to research other companies to find out exact costs and how partnership benefits positively or negatively impacted other companies. Richard Skorman offered his salary to help pay for the partnership benefits. But the council said no. And in this situation I knew we had the money in our budget so I knew that wasn't the real issue behind [council's] argument. I knew it was something else.

So their response was too abrupt and too narrow for me to accept, so I went back and told my trustees "I can't do this. I will not implement this action of denying benefits. And what that means is that you are going to have to ask me to do it and I'm telling you now that I wont." So that started a two month discussion with them trying to convince me to keep going and hope that discussions might happen again in the future. But I couldn't do that.

Ginny: How did you feel about the fact that it was Lionel Rivera's very first course of action in his position of Mayor?

Mike: It left me feeling that this decision was wired before [Council] ever walked into the room. There was no doubt in my mind. It certainly felt that way to me. There were a lot of very heroic people, who stood up in the meeting and told their stories of the impact of his decision on life in this community, and it seemed to have no impact on the Council and I could not understand that. The only way I could make sense of it was to think that this decision was something that had already been made. It's a matter of intention.

Ginny: Yes, and what is a person supposed to do with that kind of response!?

Mike: Exactly. There's NO PLACE to go with that kind of response. For me, the place to go was to stand up and say, "I can't do this". It was their right to make their decision but it's my right to decide if I want to stay here and be part of it. If I stayed I knew that people would look at me and think that I endorsed the decision of city council and there's no way I could do that.

Ginny: So given the new city council, what do you see for this city in the future? Are you pessimistic about the direction things will go?

Mike: Fortunately, I'm not from here so I'm not encumbered by the past history of Colorado Springs with regard to this issue. So my sense is that this is a community that is growing more and more diverse all the time and what we are experiencing with this decision is kind of a residual extension of the past. Because I cannot believe that as this city succeeds, and it will succeed, that it happen with that type of discriminatory face to the world. But the people who want it to change it for the better have to come together and organize. Diverse people coming together to get people who have been disenfranchised to become enfranchised.

Ginny: What are your plans now? And given what you've experienced here, I would imagine that wherever you consider to relocate, you'd want to know before hand about the city's posture and track record with regard to equality issues.

Mike: I need to sense that my work can help make a difference. And in this situation I knew we had the money in our budget so I knew money wasn't the real issue behind their [Council's] argument. I knew it was something else.

goto **shrader** page six

CV QUESTION OF THE MONTH

The Community Vision readership regularly writes Letters to the Editor in response to monthly questions the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center ponders. Send your resonses to this month's question to editor Andi at andi@ppglcc.org or mail them to the address below.

PO Box 607
Colorado Springs CO 80901-0607

What do you think of the sexy, [[or not so sexy]] new Community Vision?

shrader from page three

For me, just knowing that my decision to leave has had an impact and that because of my action people might stop and say, "maybe it IS okay to stand up and say NO, maybe it is okay to say wait a minute, this decision just isn't right". It was my chance to do that, so I did.

Ginny: Again, thank you for taking a stand, for following your heart and your gut. Not enough people are willing to do that, and I applaud your great courage and selflessness.

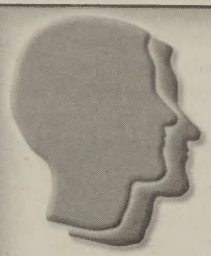
Mike: Thanks so much for talking with me. And yes, following my gut, that's the part that feels really good. I would not do anything differently than I've already done. And it feels great to say that.

Mike Schrader, a remarkable person who did a remarkable thing for GLBT persons in Colorado Springs. Please send your cards and letters of thanks and support to him, for the sacrifice he made on our community's behalf to: Mike Schrader, C/O PPGLCC, P.O. Box 607, Colorado Springs, CO, 80901. We'll make sure he gets them. But please do it SOON because Mike and his wife will be relocating for employment elsewhere. He doesn't know where yet, but he does know it probably won't be in Colorado.

CV

Ginny Oman served for 2 years on the Board of Directors of PPGLCC and is now a consultant to the Board. She's a licensed therapist and volunteers her skills by providing free counseling services to the LGBT community, as part of PPGLCC's programs and services.

Most importantly, she's the owner/ chauffer/provider of Emily (the Pride Center's Yorkshire Terrier.)



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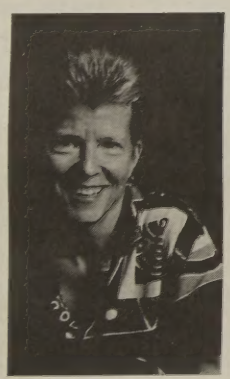

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paying homage to colorado's tommy

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by andivangough
editor

On August 12, we lost not only one of our own, but we lost a founding member of our growing community. Thomas "Tommy" Gehling, co-owner of the bar complex, Hide N' Seek, died suddenly of complications from pneumonia. He was just 59.

After 31 years, with life partner Joe Brady, Tommy's reign of giving back to Colorado Springs still lives on. With more than 150 people present at his memorial service, there is no denying what an impact he had on those in times of need. Whether it was providing a free meal to anyone who walked through the door on one of seven major holidays, giving $1.5 million back to the community, providing a safe and confiding place to come out, founding a much-needed organization, advocating safe sex and handing out condoms before anyone even understood the word AIDS, allowing Hide N' Seek to become transformed into a church, a meeting place, or any other venue when the need arose, or just lending an ear, Tommy synonymously lived up to the meaning of his name, Man. A man by definition, whose sexual orientation was only an affirming aspect to the astonishing things he was capable of doing for people. Nevertheless, he was still just a man. He lived up to his and Joe's agreement to be responsible for their own—to be the communal laypeople for those who had no other. The longevity of our community has only been enhanced by what these lovers were able to pass on to each of the last three generations.

With 59 balloons in hand, Tommy's close friends gathered in a circle outside of the bar, and each let the wind lift up the colors signifying every year that we were honored to have an angel among us, to the song of "Wind Beneath My Wings." They watched as the balloons flew to the heavens until every last one of them blended in with the blue sky.

For the remainder of the afternoon, family and friends shared in a free buffet lunch, provided by Joe, gathered around tables and reminisced of the ties that bind.

In 34 years, except when Tommy's father died, Joe and Tommy had never been apart. On their 10th anniversary, they gave each other gold-chained necklaces, which neither of them ever took off. As with any homosexual partnership, Joe was unable to collect Tommy's possessions because, by law, he was not part of the family. During the telling of the story, Joe said, "I just wanted to keep together what we promised would never part us." By some odd coincidence, Tommy's necklace was still sitting in their home.

Survivors include spouse Joe Brady, mother Genevieve Gehling of Colorado Springs, sisters Connie Bachoroski of Colorado Springs and Bonnie Clark of Rolfe, Iowa and brothers Richard and Charles Gehling, both of Colorado Springs.

In February, because of the rising cost of heath care benefits, Joe and Tommy decided it would be in their best interest to temporarily discontinue their life and health insurance policies. Unfortunately, the bills accumulated from Tommy's passing are still unpaid. If you would like to help his family by making a contribution to the "Tommy Fund," you can mail a check to

Hide N' Seek Complex
www.hideandseekcomplex.com
512 W. Colorado Ave.
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We'll miss you Wilma! Thanks for the Memories. CV

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by andivangogh
editor

Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, addressed Shove Chapel with an aura of charm and dignity, addressing Colorado Colleges' class of 2007, Aug. 24.

As today's most influential leader on nonviolence and civil rights, King delivered The William Jovanovich Lecture in Public Affairs, this year's capstone address for Colorado College's new student orientation.

The 76-year-old matriarch of social justice captivated the audience in her lecture "Preparing for Service and Citizenship in an International World." King began her address stating that she and others held a peaceful demonstration in Washington D.C. at the Lincoln Memorial in celebration of the 40th anniversary of her husband's speech, "I Have a Dream." The demonstration supporting jobs, peace and democracy was held a few days before the August 28 anniversary.

King addressed concern and the need for change in environmental, global, economic and social policies. King's idealistic desires for the protection of our lands, rights to education for all and the need for greater prosperity for the underprivileged, were directed to the next generation. She declared that it would be its responsibility to change the social justice of public policies.

King said that diversity is not just a social goal, but social unity is the path to tolerance—that rights, not just privilege, will make for a colorful mosaic, weaved into a social fabric. In her proclamation for human rights, however, she declared that gay and lesbian people should be treated with dignity and respect, but rights for this group were not included in the same breath as race, women, the disabled, and the poor. King's Christian upbringing prevents her from advocating that gays and lesbian are as deserving of the same rights as other minorities.

King challenged Colorado College's student body to get involved in eradicating prejudice and bigotry and to exercise their right to vote. CV

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.::DISCRIMINATION DEFENSE
.::LUNCHBREAK
.::GLBT 55+
.::FUSION! (Men's Activities)
.::MEN4MEN
.::LESBIAN SINGLES
.::NETCORE
.::PRIDEFEST
.::PRIDE CENTER
.::20'S SOMETHING
SCIRTS (Southern Colorado IntraRegional Transgender Society)
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578-9092
T-GENTS (Female to Male)
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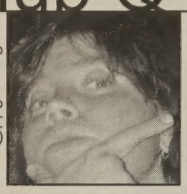
club Q promises to unite community



arva@ppglcc.org

by arvapetraadams
staff reporter

New gay-oriented restaurant and bar Club Q opened early September at 3430 N. Academy Blvd.

The opening is monumental to the area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered (GLBT) community due to a long history of low representation. Club Q is the city's first non-smoking gay nightclub.

Ninety percent of the club's stock holders are members of the GLBT community with another gay-friendly 10 percent.

"Once the same-sex benefits were taken away from the city employees," said Club Q board member Matthew Haynes, "there was a lot of complaining that there is never any central voice." Haynes feels that Club Q fills this void. "The gay drain from Colorado Springs is pumping money into the Denver venues, and eventually we'll have nothing down here because everybody drives...to Denver to be entertained. This club is being developed to give alternatives." The Colorado Springs city council squashed the same-sex benefits last May that it had just approved the previous December.

Haynes insists that Club Q is not in competition with the city's older, more established gay bars, the Hide N' Seek at 516 W. Colorado Ave. downtown, and Bijou Bar and Grill at 2510 East Bijou St. "Hide N' Seek fills a niche...Bijou bar has a great niche. We enjoy going there, and Club Q [has] a niche as well," said Haynes.

The board members are looking forward to sponsoring community events with Colorado Springs' two other gay bars and note the success of Denver's gay community events, backed by the joint efforts of all the gay venues. "I would love a gay district," said Hayes. "Our hope and intention is that we might have found a place that can attract some other gay businesses."

Many of the city's gay youth drive to Denver to frequent the dance circuit nightclubs. Club Q features house music on Friday and Saturday nights and a large dance floor, but the board insists that the club will not be a "circuit boy" venue. "I think the Club Q niche [is] the folks that are prone to not go out. It will be a lot of the folks that are attending the wine-tastings, the NetCore meetings, and the potlucks, Haynes said, in reference to local Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center-sponsored events. "The focus is not drinking and smoking. It's a place where you can go and be with friends, where you can pop in, where you can network for business. We are taking more of the British stance: if you go out earlier, you don't stay out as late. We very much want to catch the early evening crowd."

Countering the dance floor is a large meeting room available at no cost to the community. The restaurant and bar features wireless high-speed internet for customer laptop connection. Club Q is decorated in bold colors and shapes and intends to be bright during the day to accommodate business meetings and daytime patrons.

"It has a very European feel to it," said Hayes' partner and fellow board member Ken Romines. "We pulled together the best of what we found."

Hayes and Romines researched bars across the U.S. and Europe while developing the Club Q concept, and borrowed ideas from various establishments. "The bathroom ideas come from one, and the liquor cabinet comes from another, the VIP room comes from another, and the colors come from another," said Hayes.

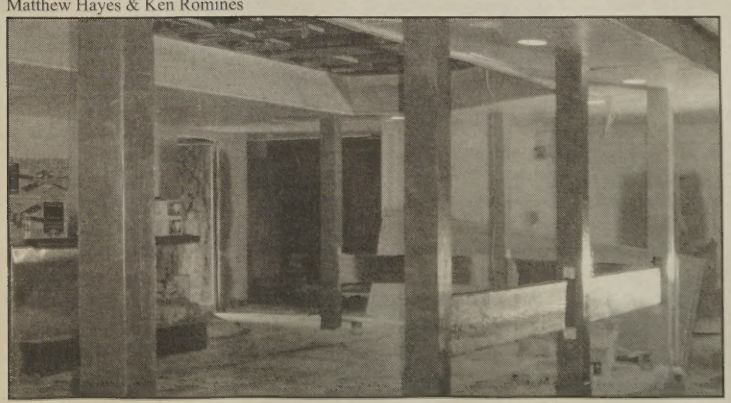
Club Q has video cameras and occasional security guards in its parking lot. "We're not anticipating huge security problems, but certainly if there is anything, it will be addressed," said Hayes. "We are not going to tolerate any trouble-makers of any sort, gay or straight. The parking lot is lit with high-volume halogen lights and the club is positioned to avoid onlookers from Academy Boulevard.

Hayes did not make contact with the Colorado Springs Police for fear of causing a controversy before the club's opening. "We just needed to make sue that we weren't going to have other people protesting and causing issues," Hayes said. The board members also did not tell Club Q's neighbors that there was a gay bar opening in their neighborhood. "Our theory is," said Hayes, "we are opening what we consider a normal business that is catering to the gay and lesbian community, but is classified as normal. For us it's a non-issue and by making it a non-issue to us, it should be for [the neighbors]." Eyes wide, Hayes continued, "It won't be like, 'Oh, by the way we are opening a new gay bar right next to you...ah ha!'"

Haynes stated that he prefers to preserve the other investors' and board members' anonyminity.

During September, patrons can sample Club Q's varied entertainment. Comedy nights, tea dances, food specials, game nights, and DJs are planned. A grand opening party is scheduled for October 3-5 with guest DJs. Visit www.clubQonline.com for more information. CV

Matthew Hayes & Ken Romines



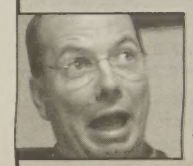
Club Q construction

OUTSPOKEN

The Colorado Springs city council squashed the same-sex benefits last May that it had just approved for its city employees the previous December. It is now reviewing a "buy-in" program that will let domestic partners use employee insurance if they pay their own premiums. What is the next step the council should take?

Ken Romines
Club Q Board Member

"Total Recall. Vote in competant and caring individuals."



Matthew Hayes
Club Q Board Member

"They need to apologize and reconsider. It seems ironic that they would do this and then declare city-wide Pride Day."

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KRCC begins new season of outright radio

by delaneyutterback
contributing reporter

2003 Season Shares Captivating Stories from Gay America

KRCC began running the 2003 season of award-winning Outright Radio in June. Hosted and produced by David Gilmore, these six one-hour programs from Public Radio International present extraordinary stories from America's gay community. The series airs at 10 p.m. on the last Friday of each month.

The 2003 season features personal narratives and interviews portraying the trials and triumphs of being openly gay in America. Each program presents two or three stories of interesting people such as a cross-country trucker, a homeless teen, and rodeo riders. Listeners also explore concerns common to everyone, like rejection and resourcefulness, falling and staying in love and growing old gracefully.

One program considers marriage and relationships and asks whether gays will reinvent marriage or whether the institution will reinvent gay relationships. Another profiles a teen who, like thousands of gay kids in the United States, has been abandoned by her parents and forced to survive on the streets. Listeners meet two senior citizens in another program who age with style in the lesbian and gay communities.

For years, KRCC has been the only local media outlet to regularly carry gay and lesbian programming. They proudly continue the tradition with Outright Radio. Outright Radio is now an ongoing feature on the station and, at the conclusion of the 2003 season, KRCC will continue to air previous seasons throughout the year.

Learn more at www.krcc.org.

Hear KRCC in these communities:
89.1 FM La Junta

88.5 FM Westcliffe / Gardner

89.9 FM Limon

90.1 FM Manitou Springs

91.1 FM Trinidad / Raton, NM

91.5 FM Lake George / Florissant / Hartsel

91.5 FM Colorado Springs / Pueblo,

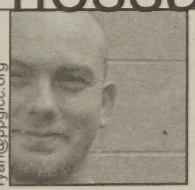
95.7 FM Salida / Buena Vista / Villa Grove

105.7 FM Cañon City

Live online at www.krcc.org.

And, don't forget to catch up on international LGBT news with This Way Out, every Wednesday at 7 p.m. on KRCC. CV

message from the president



ryan@ppglcc.org

Ok, so I'm going to kind of repeat my self from last month's letter, but that's just because this is important! It's that time of year when the Board of Directors evaluates it's progress over the past twelve months. As a membership organization, the Board of Directors is responsible not only to it's clients and constituents, but to the membership who ultimately supports the work of the Center and elects it's leadership.

Over the last year I've reported that everything is just fine, and rightly so. We are continuing to rebuild and improve upon what has been lost, and to proceed in positive directions, some attempted now for the first time. We have new policies for starting programs that have resulted in at least 5 new services for our community. We maintain a Pride Center, though small, it's ours. We have a budget to which we stick, and as promised, our financials for 2002 are already on our website, www.ppglcc.org,, with more detailed financials coming quarterly. And we are in the process of creating a three-year strategic plan to stabilize what has been built, so that the Community Center will finally put to rest it's roller coaster ride of successes and failures from the past.

You see, the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center has unique obligation in Colorado Springs. Set forth by the direction of its founders, the Community Center offers services and programs as requested by the community, acts as a clearinghouse for information and resources for needs that we cannot meet, and strives to represent–as accurately and adequately as possible–the entire LGBT community in Colorado Springs. It's a fluid entity that changes as the community's needs change, but one thing is certain; the need for it's existence will never cease.

It's been my experience that people are more apt to make their voices heard when something's wrong. And again, from new programs to successful events, things are on the right track at this time. But without your support, your input, your guidance and yes, even your money, that won't always be the case. This Center was created so that this LGBT community, no matter who happens to serve the board of directors and volunteer staff, will have a conduit for it's needs.

I can't stress enough the importance of this year's Annual Meeting. This is where the Board of Directors reports to you. The membership. The community. This is where we let you know what needs to be done to keep the organization in tact and on the right path, and this is where you let us know what the right path is.

September 25th, folks. There will be nudity!

See you soon!

Ryan Acker

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ourmission

...to create a sense of community and to promote acceptance and understanding among lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgendered people, and the community-at-large.

pridecenter

The Pride Center of Colorado Springs is located downtown at 716 1/2 N Tejon Street, directly behind 716. The Center serves as our office, and is available for group meetings by reservation. The Pride Center is staffed Tuesday-Friday from 2 pm to 6 pm and on Saturday from 12 pm to 4 pm. Visit www.ppglcc.org.

Voice (719) 471-4429

Fax (719) 471-3293

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COORDINATE A NEW PROGRAM OR SERVICE, OR VOLUNTEER FOR AN EXISTING PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT US!

aboutus

The Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center is a volunteer-run, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was incorporated in 1981. With more than twenty years of service, the organization's purpose is to create a level playing field for the GLBT community in Colorado Springs. The PPGLCC has accomplished this goal by acting as a clearinghouse for information and resources, serving as a voice for the GLBT community, coordinating Colorado Springs PrideFest and social events, and providing and sponsoring various programs such as free counseling, men's and women's groups, discrimination defense, and many others.

Our organization motto is: For the Community, By the Community.

Linda Sutton, M.A.
Counselor - Coach - Consultant

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PPGLCC sept

S	M	T	W
	1	men4men 7pm 2	
7	leather souls 7pm 8	men4men 7pm 9	board meeting 6:30pm
14	15	men4men 7pm 16	
sip & sup 6pm 21	22	men4men 7pm 23	
monthly hike 10am 28	29	men4men 7pm 30	
5	6	men4men 7pm 7	

FUSION!

Marriage Transitions
Are you a gay man in a heterosexual marriage? Are you a gay man who is group for gay men who are currently in or have been in heterosexual marr and feelings and by discussing topics and activities that are important in d information call Tom or Don at 638-0004 or email don@fawks.com.

Movie Night
The September movie will be shown on Saturday, 20 September. Meet at begin at 7:00 P.M. For more information, call Angelo at 597-8351.

Sip & Sup
The Sip & Sup will be at the Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Av kabeck1964@hotmail.com or 579-0806 no later than 18 September if you

Gay Male Fiction Book Club
The book club meeting this month is on 24 September. For more informati web site at www.users.qwest.net/~weekspaulgreg/bookclub/.

Gay Male Couples Group
The Gay Male Couples Group is a support and social group for gay couple by a discussion. The discussion topics address issues that are important t information contact Don & Tom at 638-0004 or don@fawks.com.

Monthly Hike
This month's hike will be on 28 September, and will explore an unnamed t will be based on the desires and level of fitness of those choosing to partic suitable boots, clothing, and water. To RSVP and for more information, co

programs||services

ember

R	F	S
3 4	5	6
10 FUSION! marriage transitions 7pm 11 netcore 5pm	12	adopt-a-highway GLBT 50+ 3pm 13
17 pridefest 2004 meeting 6:30pm 18	lesbian singles 5:30pm 19	FUSION! movie night 6:30pm 20
24 PPGLCC Annual Meeting 6pm -9pm 25	26	gay male fiction book club 7pm 27
1 2	3	4
8 9	10	11

s divorced or separated from a heterosexual marriage? Marriage Transitions is a support
riages. The members of the group help each other by sharing concerns, experiences,
dealing with your situation and your sexuality. Our next meeting is on 11 September. For

6:30 P.M. at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 730 N. Tejon St. The movie will

ve., on 21 September at 6:00 P.M. Please RSVP to Karl & Kevin at
u'd like to join us.

tion contact Paul & Greg at 634-3731, e-mail at weekspaulgreg@qwest.net, or visit the

les. The group meets once a month on the fourth Saturday for a potluck dinner followed
to gay male couples. Our September meeting is on 27 September at 7:00 P.M. For more

trail above Englemann Canyon in Manitou Springs. The duration and difficulty of the hike
icipate. We will meet at the Pride Center (716 ½ N. Tejon) at 10:00 A.M. Be sure to bring
ntact Marty at 685-0773 or email at fusion_outdoors@hotmail.com.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

For more than ten years, a dedicated team of volunteers has helped to clean a stretch of Highway 24 on the 2nd Saturday of each month. On behalf of the PPGLCC, the group takes care of the environment and creates positive visibility for the LGBT community.

COMMUNITY VISION

Community Vision is the printed newsletter of the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center. The paper was reinstated in January 2003 after a brief hiatus caused by the March 2002 fire. With more than 3000 copies currently distributed at each printing, it is the goal of the Community Vision team to create the premier LGBT newspaper of Colorado Springs.

COUNSELING

The PPGLCC provides free individual and couples counseling with community member Ginny Oman, and has partnered with Regina DiPadova at the El Paso County Health Department for Drug and Alcohol counseling for the LGBT community.

DISCRIMINATION DEFENSE PROGRAM

The goal of the Discrimination Defense Program is to create systemic change in order to alleviate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. The Center acts as a mediator in these situations in hopes of creating positive change without having to use legal recourse.

FUSION!

Created by the Southern Colorado AIDS Project, FUSION! is collaboration of social activities for gay and bi men, including hiking, book club, potlucks and more. The PPGLCC is proud to sponsor FUSION!

GLBT 50+

Conversation, camaraderie, frivolity and refreshments for GLBT people with lots of life experience. The group meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at the Pride Center.

GLBTQA 20-SOMETHING GROUP

This group is designed with the 20-30 age group in mind. Activities change on a monthly basis depending on what people want to do.

LEATHER SOULS

A discussion group sponsored by the Pikes Peak Summit Masters and the PPGLCC meeting on the first Monday of each month at the Pride Center at 7 pm. Join this bunch to learn more about the Leather/Levi Community.

LESBIAN SINGLES

This meeting was created for women who want to meet other women outside of the bar scene. This is a monthly meeting at the Pride Center meeting on the third Friday of the month at 5:30 pm.

LUNCHBREAK

LunchBreak is one of the largest LGBT e-newsletters in Colorado. Created by Sally Hall, the e-list provides up-to-date information on community activities and relevant news, and can be used for community dialogue. The PPGLCC is honored to host the LunchBreak after Sally's departure.

MEN4MEN

Meeting every Tuesday at 7 pm at the Pride Center, this gay and bi men's group provides a forum for discussion, socialization and mutual support.

NETCORE

The Network Community Resource is a monthly gathering of local LGBT and allied businesses and the customers who use them. The NetCoRe Colorado Springs Directory is published annually. Pick one up at a meeting on the third Thursday of the month or at the Center.

PRIDEFEST

The PPGLCC is proud to present the Colorado Springs Annual PrideFest through the efforts of our newly established year-round PrideFest Committee.

WWW.PPGLCC.ORG: Visit our website to learn more about our programs and services, up-coming events, volunteer opportunities and to check out the community calendar.

CV EDITORIAL

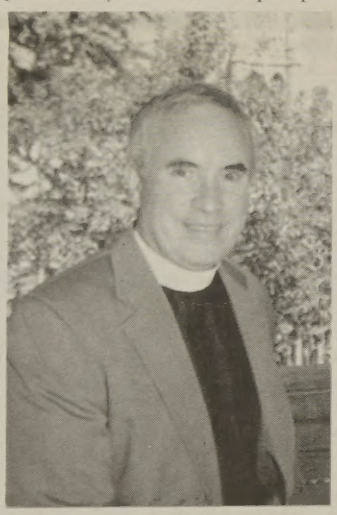
hypocrisy deep within church rector

andi@ppglcc.org

by andivangogh
editor

Over the past few months, Rev. Don Armstrong, the current rector of Grace and St. Stephens Episcopal Church, has been cited publicly in many major news outlets, calling the appointing of Bishop Gene Robinson, an openly gay bishop, a public scandal. After canceling my appointment for an interview to spend time with his daughter, Rev. Armstrong agreed to an interview by email. However, after three attempts to get him to answer my questions based on several of his own comments, he stated that they were "agenda driven statements looking for someone to beat up... taste and finesse is the way it is done, not inquisition", I realized his unwillingness to be honest with me meant that the standards for which Rev. Armstrong considers to be self-evident are nothing but hypocrisy running deep within a man who's own agenda is based on selfishness, jealousy, and fear.

Although claiming to have gay and lesbian friends, Armstrong insists that homosexuality is a disorder leading to promiscuous sex and drug addiction. I questioned him about celibacy, which he feels Bishop Robinson should be in order to be in faith of the Lord he serves. I asked him if he believed celibacy, an unnatural submission of sexual activity for a grown healthy adult, to be the true disorder and a contributing factor to the committing of sodomy and pedophile acts of so many heterosexual clergy. After researching the Episcopal Church's (ECUSA) "Book of Constitution and Canon", I found that in *Canon 30: Of Religious Orders*, celibacy is a voluntary commitment on the part of all Bishops and has no real bearing on the Episcopal church's mission for clergy which is to lead by example of leading a life devoted to Christ, the gospel, and the well being of the body of Christ, which would you believe has nothing to do with one's sexual orientation?



Rev. Don Armstrong

Armstrong is among a small minority of evangelizing militant conservatives, whose juvenile decrees regarding homosexuality, same-sex relationships and unions, are always hidden behind the Bible, making statements like, "we've sold ourselves down the river for sexual sin," and "[it] contradicts what the scriptures say." As a conservative Jew, I was ready to rip my hair out after reading these statements time and time again. In trying to point out to him, as an example, Leviticus 18:22 of the Old Testament, that which God condemns are the homosexual acts of pagan rituals; rape, sodomy, and pedophilia. Never once does the Torah state that these homosexual acts are the same as actually being homosexual. In the language prior to "homosexuality", pre 15-16th century, it is clear in the Torah, that the homosexual relationship was a norm for many of the figures presented, and yet not condemned by God. I wanted to know why exactly he is so hell bent on influencing his congregation to believe and persuade them in believing such a philosophical fallacy? Without answer, but plenty of experience I imagine it's because it is a fear he has about homosexual relationships for which he undermines their validity. Since 1979, the General Convention, the body of clergy that govern how the Episcopal Church runs, are quite sensitive to acknowledging the "mystery of human sexuality and how deeply personal matters related to human sexuality are." Among the traditions of devotion Episcopalians are known: "[they] learn from the stories [they] have been told, beginning with those in the Bible." However, and the Episcopal Church goes on to say, "tradition may mean the particular practice of one particular church and often people want that practice never to change simply for the sake of tradition...Always there is tension between holding onto the old and moving toward the new." So when people like Armstrong grasp at the literal text in the Bible instead of moving forward, instead of questioning its contextual meanings, and instead of being willing to learn from our history, and professing that only God is our true judge, you should be terrified of being brainwashed by such an individual. So today, let me add my own piece of scripture in response to all the crap the reverend has been feeding the press.

"And if it were that God has placed judgment upon homosexuals then let us not as humans act so sanctimoniously and declare man the righteous decision makers of their fate, but to show them the love and decency for which all men are deserving until redemption we shall know not." CV

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Hello all you gay families...

For those of you who weren't at our first meeting (the potluck in Manitou), we had a great time with about 25 to 30 people there. We tentatively decided to meet once a month, on the last Saturday of the month. However, the last Saturday of August is Labor day weekend, so we will meet the first Saturday of September.

Saturday, September 6th at 10: 30 a.m., we will meet at Acacia Park at Bijou and Tejon Street in Colorado Springs. There is a picnic table just north of the playground area and we will try to set up camp there. Look for some purple balloons. Bring your own snacks or drinks.

I have set-up a tentative schedule for the next few months. If you have a park you would like us to meet at, a house you want to share during the winter time months or an idea of where to meet during the winter months, please E-mail it to me. Also, if you have an idea of what we should call our group that might have a nice acronym, E-mail that to me to and we can vote on it at our next meeting.

Schedule for Kids with Gay Parents Group

Saturday, Sept. 6 10:30 a.m. Acacia Park Bijou and Tejon, Col. Spgs.

Playground area

Saturday, Sept. 27 10:30 a.m. Acacia Park

Saturday, Oct. 25 10:30 a.m. To be arranged -nominate a park

Skip November - due to Thanksgiving weekend

Saturday, Dec. 27 5:30 p.m. After X-mas party at Leslie and Teddi's

Saturday, Jan. 31 10:30 a.m. Meet at Chuckie Cheese

september 13 nine am to one pm

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FOURTH ANNUAL PIKES PEAK LAVENDER FILM FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 19TH, 20TH & 21ST
COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER

What do Olympia Dukakis, Gina Gerschon, Dutch dancers, and Israeli soldiers have in common? They are all stars of the 4th Annual Pikes Peak Lavender Film Festival beginning Friday September 19th at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. This year's committee has worked especially hard to bring top-quality international gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender films to the Pikes Peak region. The Colorado Springs LGBTA community is in for a real treat this year. Let's take a peak at some of the films featured in this year's festival. Remember to buy your festival pass soon! The PPLFF needs your support to keep the festival alive and kicking for this year and many fabulous more to come!

Friday night's opening feature will be the camp Dutch musical "Yes Nurse! No Nurse!". For those who fear subtitles, remember that musicals have more dance numbers than words of dialogue! "Yes Nurse! No Nurse!" chronicles the tribulations of a rest home with a bitter neighbor. A queer hairdresser, a petty criminal, and of course: Nurses! add to the fun and spectacle. Perhaps for more reason than this fantastic film, you should be at our opening night reception to taste the delights of Cravings' fine victuals. Be there!

All day Saturday and Sunday will be brimming with delightful cinematic moments from our remaining 8 features. Highlights will include the acclaimed love story of two Israeli soldiers in "Yossi and Jagger", the irreverent British comedy "9 Dead Gay Guys", and who could forget the beautifully tattooed Gina Gershon as an aging punk rocker in "Prey for Rock n' Roll"—the festival's closing night feature. Meow! And, of course, parties galore at both the Bijou Bar and Grill and the Hide N' Seek Complex.

Really truly, there is a film for all tastes at this year's festival thanks to the fantastic work of this year's festival planning committee. With so much celluloid mastery to enjoy, you MUST come out, support the film festival, and I guarantee you will be entertained! I'll see YOU at the movies!

For a complete schedule of all films and for online pass sales, visit www.pplff.org. Passes are on sale now at Wag n' Wash, Spice of Life, KRCC's studios, Toon's Music and Video, and the Pride Center.

The Full Festival Pass includes all nine features and the opening and closing night parties for $70. The $45 Half Pass includes the opening night feature, four additional films, and the closing night party. The Four-Film Pass also allows admittance into the closing night party and costs $30. Individual tickets for features will go on sale at the Fine Arts Center after Labor Day.

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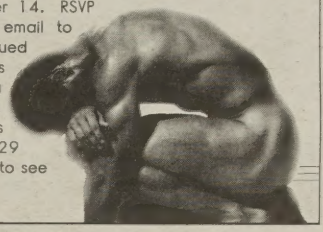
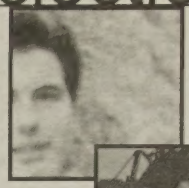
:::colorado springs invitation

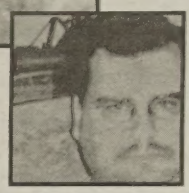
DAN-Ds

THE DENVER AREA NUDE DUDES would like to take this opportunity to invite all guys from the Colorado Springs and surrounding areas who are 21 years of age and above to a monthly swim we are having. Due to the fact the there is an effort in the Springs area to establish an all male nudist club, we would like to have you get acquainted with a nudist event such as our monthly swim. It is held at a health club in the I-25 & Colorado Blvd area. The event will be on Sunday, September 14. RSVP to Howard at 720-296-3043 or send an email to bean692001@yahoo.com and you will be issued a temporary one day membership that allows you to attend the event for only $7.00. You must RSVP. If you want to find out more about the nudist club, call Howard or send an email as noted above or give Ryan a call at 719-471-4429 or send him an email at ryan@ppglcc.org. Hope to see you at this event and please bring a friend



eclectic ambiance





by alexclemons&robbeam
staff reporters

Gertrude's, an award-winning establishment, has earned its critics approval for eclectic ambiance of food and presentation. We are not professional critics; we only know what is good to eat. This fine food restaurant has one of the best line-ups we have ever come across, serving a full menu for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday brunch. The menu items are many favorites, with just the right amount of individuality infused by Chef/Owner Robert Wooldridge Jr. Robert rotates the Grille menu every few weeks and creates his own desserts to impart variety to life. Gertrude's also provides catering services for those needing a discerning menu.

Our experience for lunch was nothing short of remarkable. The sandwiches were delicious. The meats were tender, vegetables fresh, and seasonings just right. The meal was artistically presented with prompt courteous service. The restaurant was clean and well lit, elegant yet very inviting and comfortable. Light and cheerful the atmosphere welcomes you in with beautiful artwork by Laura Reilly hanging on display. The service was prompt and gracious with a bright smile and kind words served along with the artistically presented meal.

Our conversation with Chef Robert revealed a kind and generous man, with great business sense and an esteemed personality. He has the respect of his staff, as well as, the respect and appreciation of his clientele. *Robert and his staff have done a wonderful job with their restaurant and we thoroughly enjoyed our meals.*

In addition to being a great chef, Robert is also an aspiring screenwriter and hopes to produce his own independent film in the spring. He also enjoys computer graphics and has an excellent web site, which details his restaurant better than anyone else ever could. Robert also works out and has recently taken up running. The proud parent of two, he also enjoys movies and spending quality time with his children. He is open and friendly and his acquired talent for cooking has earned him an undeniable Bravo!! CV

Gertrude's Restaurant
2625 West Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs, Colorado
719-471-0887
www.
gertrudesrestaurant.com

Therapeia
jack coyle, MC
marriage
and family counselor
719.439.4949
jack@therapeia.net

MARRIAGE TRANSITIONS

GAY MAN, STRAIGHT MARRIAGE?

Are you a gay Dad? Are you a gay man in a heterosexual marriage? Are you divorced or separated from a heterosexual marriage?

GAY DAD?

Marriage Transitions is a support group made up of gay men just like you.

For Information Call Tom or Don 638-0004
or E-mail don@fawks.com

OUTRIGHT RADIO
TELLING THE EXTRAORDINARY STORIES OF AMERICA'S GAYS & LESBIANS
LISTEN ON THE FINAL
FRIDAY
OF EACH MONTH
10PM
KRCC
91.5 FM
KRCC.ORG

WANTED

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender people with lots of life experience for conversation, camaraderie, frivolity, and refreshments. We meet the 2nd Saturday of each month from 3-5pm at the Pride Center. For more information email 50plus@ppglcc.org or phone Mary at 719-475-2523.

CV YOUTH NEWS

a force to reckon with

morgan@ppglcc.org

by morganweinert
staff reporter

A new force is creeping into Colorado's schools. This force is changing the way students think about diversity and causing hundreds to silence themselves for an entire day.

This force is The Gay/Lesbian/Straight Education Network (GLSEN).

Thousands of schools all across the country, and quite a few in Colorado, have taken the resources and support of GLSEN and started controversial, but successful, Gay/Straight Alliances (GSA).

GLSEN is a national organization that thrives on its mission statement: To make safer schools for all. Through their extensive staff in San Francisco, Washington D.C. and New York, GLSEN helps students, teachers and allies around the country achieve safe schools for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

GLSEN focuses on helping in four main ways: Local organizing, impacting public policy and shaping public opinion, educating educators, and helping students fight for their rights. Staffs, based in the three main centers, create resources to help organizers and help start successful campaigns to change public policy. But adults only make up a small portion of GLSEN.

Students all around the country make up the Student Organizing Department of GLSEN. A diverse collection of students help start GSAs, organize the Day of Silence (www.dayofsilence.org) and help make the National Teaching Respect for All conference come together.

For those of you that want to help make schools safer, visit GLSEN's website, www.glsen.org. On the website, you can donate to the cause, send emails to senators to get public policy changed, read the "Student Organizing Yearbook" and register for GLSEN's famous Teaching Respect for All Conference.

So become part of the force that's making schools around the country safer. Support GLSEN and your local GSAs.

For more information on GLSEN visit www.glsen.org. For more information on local GSAs, email the author. CV

Discrimination Defense Program.

- Fired because you're gay?

- Landlord threatened to evict you because you kissed your girlfriend in front of the apartment?

- Hanging out at the mall or a club and were harrassed because you're "too effeminate" or "too butch?"

OUR GOAL: to intervene, mediate and create systemic change, alleviating discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

You are not alone. Stop by the Pride Center to fill out an evaluation form or call 719-471-4429. Your right to privacy and confidentiality is repected and will be protected. If we can help, we will.

PIKES PEAK GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

ANNUAL MEETING

9/25/2003 6-9pm

ELECT THE NEW BOARD
CHANGES TO BYLAWS
VOTE ON THE NEW PPGLCC LOGO
STRATEGIC PLANNING
FINANCIAL REPORTS
WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?

Everyone is welcome! Share your ideas for the Center's future. Tell us what the GLBT community in the Springs needs and meet GLBT folks from around town. RSVP is not required, but extremely helpful. Please call 719.471.4429 to announce your attendance, ask questions, or get directions.

Free food catered by

315 E COSTILLA
COLORADO SPRINGS
GAY & LESBIAN FUND COMMUNITY ROOM

FUSION!

ACTIVITIES FOR GAY AND BI MEN

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FUSION! PLEASE CONTACT (719) 471-4429 OR EMAIL FUSION@PPGLCC.ORG.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS WILL APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.PPGLCC.ORG AND WILL BE AVAILABLE IN HARD COPY AT THE PRIDE CENTER.

PRIDEFEST 2004

GEARING UP FOR PRIDEFEST 2004, THE THIRD WEEKEND IN JULY!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE PRIDE CENTER AT 6:30PM!

EMAIL PRIDE@PPGLCC.ORG FOR MORE INFO.

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2411 N. Tejon
Colorado Springs CO 80907

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&
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CLASSIFIEDS

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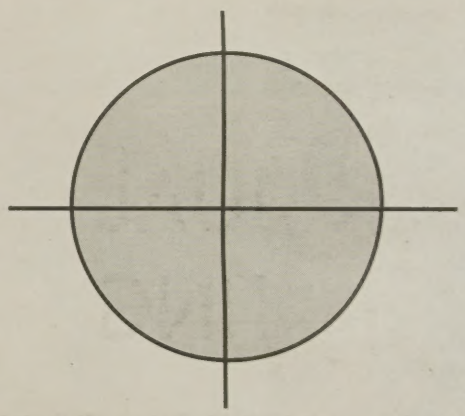
CV Really hot CV Layout Designer seeks mate. Must like tortoises.



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CV

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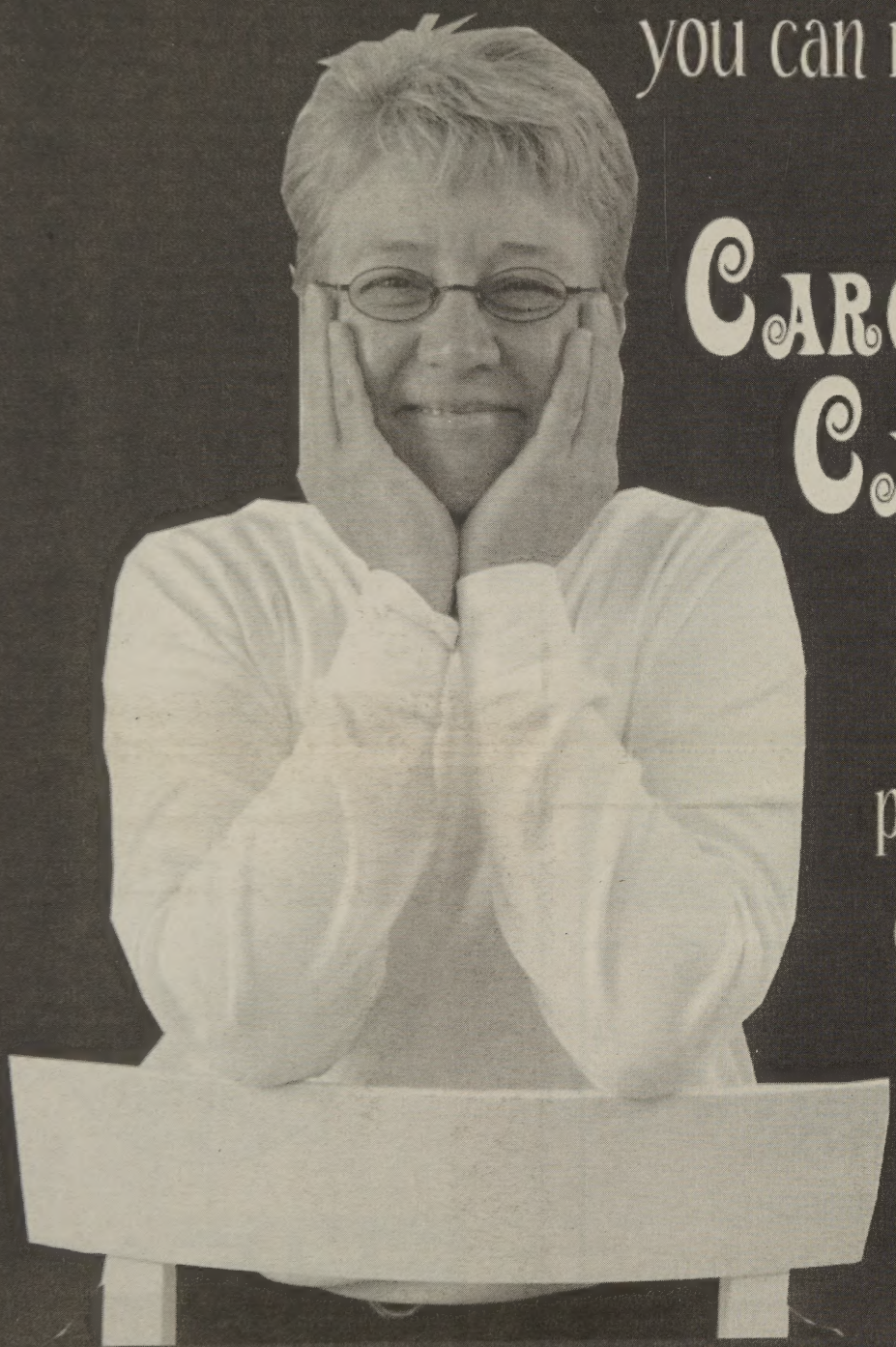

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GLBTQA

20-SOMETHING

20-SOMETHING AND DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?

HANG OUT WITH FOLKS YOUR OWN AGE!

FROM GO-KARTING TO BOWLING, EVENTS CHANGE ON A MONTHLY BASIS DEPENDING ON WHAT PEOPLE WANT TO DO

CHECK OUT WWW.PPGLCC.ORG FOR THE LATEST EVENTS OR CONTACT ELLIE: MONTYATSEA@HOTMAIL.COM

A GROUP FOR GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN

men 4 men

SOCIALIZING, DISCUSSION AND MUTUAL SUPPORT CELEBRATING AND SHARING OUR LIVES AS MEN WHO LOVE MEN

MEETS EVERY TUESDAY 7-8:30 PM AT THE PRIDE CENTER

a discussion group sponsored by summit masters and the PPGLCC

join us on the first mondays of the month at the pride center to learn more about the leeather and levi community

PPGLCC
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